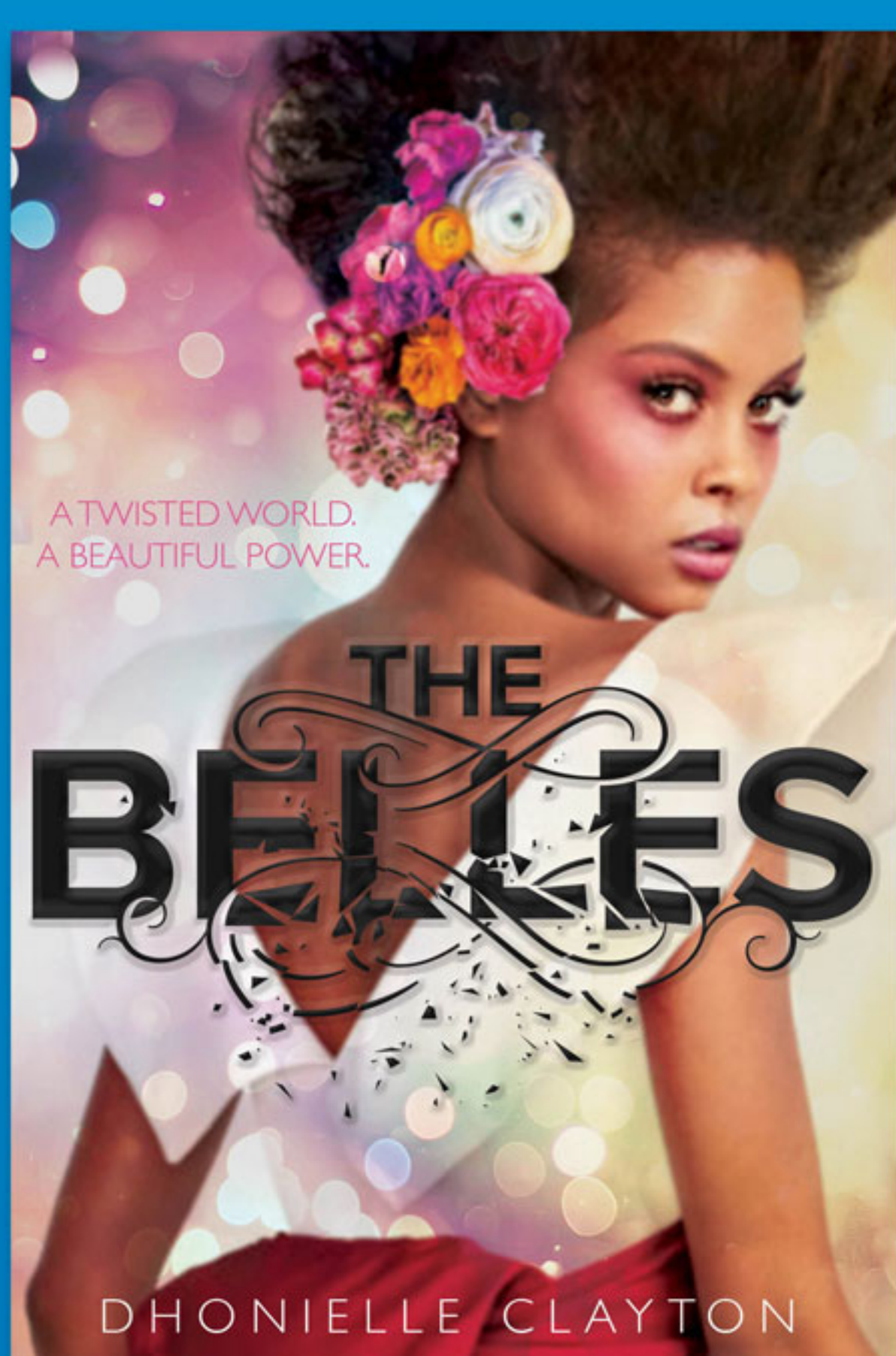


A LOOK IN A BOOK

June 2018

“The Belles” by Dhonielle Clayton

**Reviewed by:
Mackenzie Hunter
Library Assistant**



Camellia Beauregard is a Belle, one of six girls born to the island nation of Orleans who have the power to create and control beauty. They are trained from birth to wield the arcana that resides in their blood in order to keep the people of Orleans - who are born as “Gris” with gray skin, red eyes, and hair the texture of straw - as beautiful as possible. Whether the need is for a new skin tone, higher cheek bones, a smaller waist, a different hair color, or a different eye shape, all one needs do is have the money to make an appointment with a Belle and all can be rectified or changed to suit the whims of the client - so long as the client can handle the pain that comes with the adjustments.

For any Belle, and especially for Camellia, the most coveted position is to become The Favorite - the Belle who lives at the royal palace and sees to all of the beauty needs of the royal family and their court. Camellia would give anything to fill her mother’s shoes as attendant to the house of Orleans, and when she gets her chance, she is beyond ecstatic - but worry still gnaws at her mind.

The world of the court is enthralling and gorgeous, but Camellia soon discovers that not everything is as it seems. Alongside the polish and glamour of the court, there is also terrible darkness and the evil that is created when thirst for power turns to madness and obsession.

This is a book that will cause readers to ask themselves some difficult questions: What is beauty? Who or what defines it? How far will one go to achieve it? What will it cost? And most importantly: When is it time to take a stand?

Dhonielle Clayton has created a lush world, tenacious heroine, fabulous cast of characters, and an unforgettable story that is sure to burn itself into the minds of readers and leave them wanting more.

Just one word of warning: Make sure you have time to read it in one sitting!